

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01355 261140Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 /023 W
-----057169 261433Z /41

R 261134Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO USINFO WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0462

UNCLAS DUBLIN 01355

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN IRISH INDEPENDENT APRIL 26, 1978

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN IRISH INDEPENDENT
APRIL 26, 1978 UNDER HEADING STALEMATE:

THE NEUTRON BOMB HAS BEEN GETTING THE HEADLINES
RECENTLY. FIRST PRESIDENT CARTER ASSURED US ALL
THAT HE WOULD NOT GO AHEAD WITH THE CONSTRUCTION
OF THE THING FOR THE MOMENT, A DECISION WHICH
WAS ACCORDED VARYING DEGREES OF APPLAUSE IN
EUROPE AND NONE AT ALL IN MOSCOW WHERE IT WAS
FELT THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS NOT BEEN POSITIVE
ENOUGH.

BUT THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AND THE VISIT OF
THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE TO MOSCOW HAS NOW, IT
SEEMS, JOGGED THE RUSSIANS INTO A COMMITMENT WHICH
IS, HOWEVER, EVERY BIT AS CONDITIONAL AS THAT MADE
BY THE AMERICANS.

FROM PRESIDENT BREZHNEV HAS COME THE NEWS THAT HIS
COUNTRY WILL REFRAIN FROM STARTING PRODUCTION OF
ITS OWN NEUTRON BOMB. THIS QUID PRO QUO ASSUMES
THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE THE ABILITY TO MAKE THE
BOMB - AS THEY PROBABLY DO HAVE - AND THAT WE CAN
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TRUST THE RUSSIANS NOT TO MAKE IT SECRETLY. ON
THIS LAST POINT IT MUST BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED THAT
THE VARIOUS AMERICAN SPIES IN THE SKY WILL MONITOR
THE EXISTENCE OR OTHERWISE OF THE NEUTRON BOMB.

FOR THE MOMENT THEN IT IS STALEMATE, BUT ONLY ON
ATOMIC MATTERS. THE RUSSIANS STILL HAVE A VAST AND

SUPERIOR CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCE IN EASTERN EUROPE
AND WESTERN RUSSIA WHICH COULD OVERWHELM THE WEST
IN A MATTER OF DAYS IF WAR BROKE OUT. THESE ARE THE
FORCES WHICH NOW NEED TO BE REDUCED. KRENE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ADVANCED WEAPONS, NUCLEAR BOMBS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DUBLIN01355
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780178-0562
Format: TEL
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780416/aaaaanfc.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 43cb2fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2846951
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDITORIAL IN IRISH INDEPENDENT APRIL 26, 1978 FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN IRISH INDEPENDENT APRIL 26, 1978 UNDER HEADING STALEMATE
TAGS: SOPN, US, EI, IRISH INDEPENDENT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/43cb2fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014